

RADIO FREE EUROPE  
MUNICH, GERMANY  
CZECHOSLOVAK DESK

PROGRAM TITLE: DOMESTIC BLOCK H-33  
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FOR AIR : 21 JUNE 1967  
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SPEAKER: Dear listeners, with the new economic model the long neglected but still more burning problem of qualification, the problem of technical cadres has been pressing to the foreground.

Any reflection upon this subject automatically encourages investigation and comparison of the figures. This has been done for some time - with a remarkable dose of self-criticism - by several leading Party and state officials. Our public is slowly learning about the true state of affairs and forming a picture of what we are up to. Let us quote at least several examples: While 50 to 80 per cent of the younger generation graduate from secondary school in the US, in Japan, Holland, and elsewhere, it is only 35 per cent in our country. In the technical-economic apparatus, 43 per cent of workers are without technical training. In central authorities 69 per cent have no university education, 17 per cent only elementary school. Hardly 25 per cent of factory managers are university graduates; in 1963, still 40 per cent were not secondary school graduates. The same is applicable to research work: throughout the whole scientific-research level in the Republic, hardly 25 per cent are university graduates. Of store managers it is known that they had not the slightest knowledge of foreign languages. Sixty per cent of legal functions in state and municipal administration are held by people without legal training. These figures are by no means encouraging.

However we would penetrate to the entire truth only by the use of the above-mentioned figures from statistics and mechanical comparison of the numbers of qualified manpower in our country and abroad.

We come closer to the truth when, aided, by the above quoted figures we begin to investigate how the number of trained workers is reflected in organization and production results, in work productivity, in the effect of regulations and in administration. Findings arrived at by casual investigation are extraordinarily instructive - sometimes nearly unbelievable. The discrepancy between the number of trained workers and their employment in our country demonstrates such waste of qualifications such as no regular, normal society could afford; this is possible only under so-called Socialism. In CSSR there are approximately 200,000 experts with university training; however, there are only 22,000 holding economic planning, however, 113,000 people with elementary education are employed, i.e., about 60 per cent.

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So-called "qualification unemployment" is, however, not only a social plague; it has its farreaching consequences for the economy and administration. Experts directly connect our enterprises' low economic performance with the deplorably low use of expert training.

Also this realization helps explain why our production was so costly and uneffective, why, e.g., plants of the same technological quality in the US or the German Federal Republic produce three times as much as ours; why there was such confusion in our production, such a large quantity of rejects; why there were so many unrealistic, impractical and contradictory laws, resolutions, and regulations, why so many illegal decisions by our law authorities.

Communists in our country treated experts as if they were not needed. Only now have they come to realize that without them nothing could be put in order: neither the economy, nor state administration, nor social nor political life. An analysis of the waste of qualified people and its social and economic consequences thus leads us to the core of the matter. The order of the day and of the given situation in our country is: intensify qualification. However, as we stated above, the cause of the evil does not lie in a shortage of qualification but in the shortage of trained people in key positions in state administration and the economy, which have been held by people whose sole qualification is their Party book.

Better qualification will be of use only if trained people got appropriate influence and responsibility, theoretical and practical opportunity to enforce their expert conception of state administration, legislation and production organization. This is the viewpoint today, and the demand raised not only by experts but also by all those who have a sincere interest in getting out of this stalemate into which Communists have led us in the nearly 20 years of their rule.